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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/685,068	FLAHERTY ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Robert L. Nasser	3736	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to paper filed 12/15/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6, 12-18, 21, 22 and 26-29.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 14 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Art Unit: 3736

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. John Grover on March 10, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

On page 1, in the section entitled related applications, in line 2, the following has been added after October 5, 1999: -- now US Patent 6632188.

*per
3/22/05*

In the claims:

In claim 21, line 9, the words "the blood" has been changed to -- a point where transmural --.

In claim 21, line 9, after the word pressure, the following has been added: -- is about zero --.

This claim was amended in that as written, the claim was subject to the same rejection previously applied to claim 26. During a telephone conversation with John Grover on March 10, 2005, it was agreed to amend claim 21 to include the allowable subject matter from the other claims, specifically that the time when the amplitude is a maximum is the point where the transmural pressure is approximately zero.

Art Unit: 3736

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 1-6 and 12 define over the art of record in that none of the art determines when a volumetric signal is at a maximum, which indicates when transmural pressure is about zero. Claims 13-17, 28, and 29 define over the art in that none of the art determines when a filtered signal indicative of arterial volume is at a maximum, thereby determining when transmural pressure is about zero. Claim 18 defines over the art in that none of the art determines when a pressure transducer signal obtained as described in the claim is at a maximum, which indicates when transmural pressure is about zero. Claim 21 defines over the art in that none of the art determines when a pressure oscillation signal is at a maximum, which indicates when transmural pressure is about zero. Claim 26 defines over the art in that none of the art determines when filtered signal indicative of an oscillating signal, which indicates a point when transmural pressure is about zero, and determines blood pressure based on the point. Claim 27 defines over the art in that none of the art determines when a signal indicative of oscillations along an artery is at a maximum, which indicates when transmural pressure is about zero.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert L. Nasser whose telephone number is (571) 272-4731. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, variable hours.

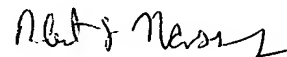
Art Unit: 3736

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Max Hindenburg can be reached on (571) 272-4726. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Robert L. Nasser
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3736

RLN
March 18, 2005



ROBERT L. NASSER
PRIMARY EXAMINER